

TO: JIM MIERSCH, FOGR

WE RECEIVED THESE MATERIALS AT DET-RP VIA U.S.D.A.
IT ORIGINALLY CAME FROM SENATOR RIEGLE'S OFFICE
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE SUBJECT OF THESE MATERIALS IS CONSUMER PROBLEMS
WITH WINDOW SCREENS.
JUDITH HAYES & DAVID SCHMELTZER NAMES ARE MENTIONED
IN SOME OF THE MATERIALS, SO MAYBE THEY KNOW SOMETHING
ABOUT THIS.

IN ANY CASE, THESE MATERIALS LOOK LIKE SOME TYPE OF
MANAGERIAL THOUGHT & DECISION IS NEEDED, SO THAT IS
WHY I AM FORWARDING THEM TO YOU.

JIM
DET-RP

P.S. I GOT A HOLD OF JUDITH HAYES AS YOU REQUESTED.
SHE WAS FAMILIAR WITH THIS MATTER. SHE STATED
THAT SHE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH A TOXICOLOGIST
WITH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN WHO FEELS THAT THERE
MAY BE A PROBLEM WITH THE OFF GASSING OF THE
SCREENS. SHE STATED THAT CPSC'S HEALTH SCIENCES
DIV. IS REVIEWING THE TOXICOLOGICAL TEST RESULTS,
AND SHOULD HAVE AN OPINION ABOUT THIS BY
MID--JANUARY, 1993. SHE STATED THAT BECAUSE OF
THE SENATOR'S INQUIRY, THERE WILL PROBABLY HAVE
TO BE A RESPONSE BY CPSC'S OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
RELATIONS.
SHE TOLD ME THAT BECAUSE THE FIRM IS IN FOGR,
I SHOULD SEND THE MATERIALS TO YOU FOR YOUR
REVIEW, AND THEN YOU SHOULD SEND THE MATERIALS
TO HER WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED.

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DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES

BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS: Chairman

FINANCE:
Subcommittee on
Health for Families
and the Uninsured:
Chairman

BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2201
(202) 224-4822

December 14, 1992

MICHIGAN REGIONAL OFFICES

CENTRAL
705 Washington Square Bldg
109 W. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 377-1713

WAYNE-MONROE
1155 Brewery Park Blvd
Suite 343
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 226-3188

EASTERN
Suite 910
352 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502
(313) 766-5115

SOUTHEASTERN
Century Center Bldg., 3d Floor
30800 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
(313) 573-9017

UPPER PENINSULA
Room 323, P.O. Bldg
200 W. Washington
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 226-7457

WESTERN
Suite 716 Federal Bldg
110 Michigan Ave. NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 456-2592

Telecommunications
Device for the Deaf
(517) 377-1899

NORTHERN-LOWER
309 Front Street
Traverse City, MI 49685
(616) 946-1300

Detroit Field Office/CPSC
McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue
Rm M-24
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Sir/Madame:

Enclosed is a letter from Mary Golarz.

Would you please give this matter your consideration, and provide my regional office listed below with your findings.

Thank you for your prompt assistance.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

CONTROLLED CORRESPONDENCE

1. CORRESPONDENT:		2. DUE DATE		3. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION CONTROL NO.							
		EXT. DATE:		4. PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:							
6. SUBJECT:		5. <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE DRAFT REPLY <input type="checkbox"/> DIRECT REPLY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:									
		7. INFORMATION COPY OF INCOMING SENT TO: <table border="0"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> OGC</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONERS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> OS</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> OEX</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> OMR</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> OCR</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr></table>				<input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> OGC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMISSIONERS	<input type="checkbox"/> OS	<input type="checkbox"/> OEX	<input type="checkbox"/> OMR
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8. DATE OF CORRESPONDENCE:		9. DATE RECEIVED:		10. DATE FINAL REPLY:							
11. REFERRED TO: <i>DEX</i> DATE: <i>12/29/92</i>		12. REFERRED TO: DATE:		13. INTERIM REPLY DATE:							
15. REFERRED TO: <i>CE</i> DATE: <i>12/29/92</i>		16. REFERRED TO: DATE:		17. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS							
18. REFERRED TO: <i>CECA</i> DATE: <i>12/38/92</i>		19. REFERRED TO: DATE:		20. ORIGINATING OFFICE <input type="checkbox"/> OCR <input type="checkbox"/> OS							



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November 16, 1992

Mr. Fred Hoffeecker
Assistant Attorney General in charge
Of Consumer Product Safety Division
P.O. Box 30212
Lansing, MI, 48909

Dear Mr. Hoffeecker,

I appreciate the time the attorney from your department, Mr. Bob Rikle, took in response to my phone call on Friday, November 13, 1992. The specific complaint is the distribution to homes of screens manufactured by Phifer Wire Products Inc. of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Enclosed you will find 2 toxicology reports that document the problem with the screening material. After Mr. Rikle had personally attempted to contact the names I had given him of persons in the Michigan Department of Public Health's Division of Health Risk Assessment, he advised me by phone to send you a written statement regarding this complaint.

Enclosed you will find a letter to Dr. Mike Kamrin Ph.D., a toxicologist on the staff of Michigan State University, Institute for Environmental Toxicology. Dr. Kamrin has been most instrumental in the pursuit of this issue. Dr. Kamrin passed the toxicology reports, and other information, on to John Hesse from the Division of Health Risk Assessment. To date, the response of that Division, to my knowledge, has been a letter written by Dr. K.S. Sidhu (copy enclosed) to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission. In a response to a request from John Hesse, I did receive a very technical phone call on October 23, 1992, from Dr. Wagner in which he interrupted the toxicology reports. Although I'm a Registered Nurse, in light of the rapid pace and the scientific terminology that Dr. Wagner used, I admit that most of what he said - "flew over my head." Before hanging up the phone, Dr. Wagner did answer some of my pertinent questions.

1. Yes the gaseous toxins which were released by the screens manufactured by Phifer Wire Products and documented in the 2 toxicology reports (initiated from different parts of the United States) can compromise the anatomical systems of persons already debilitated from various inflections.
2. The chemicals can effect the liver.
3. The chemicals can have neurotoxic effects.
4. The pthalates can remain for "a long period of time" in the environment.

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This environmental hazard must be addressed since there has been no formal recall! Although Michigan is not the only state in which this situation exists, hopefully the State of Michigan will acknowledge this hazard and take action!

Please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way.
Phone: 313-391-1675.

Sincerely,

Mary S. Golarz

Mary S. Golarz

CC: Mr. P. Bodell
Senator D. Riegle
Dr. H. Humphrey

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Post Note :

Presently, our home is without screens.

Our last screens were " custom made ".

After having these in our windows for 15 days - our family had become ill during these 15 days - we removed them.

The dates these screens were in place were from September 28, 1992 thru October⁹, 1992.

The company which fabricated these screens is in Wisconsin.

When I called this company and related the fact that our family is very sensitive to environmental toxins, they understood our concern, and agreed to send us the MSDS) Material Safety Data Sheet) forms.

From what I understand, when Mr. Charles Morgan of Phifer Wire Products was requested to send one of our neighbors an MSDS form relating to the odorous screens that had apparently effected his family physically, Mr. Morgan's response was that " he didn't have any ".

An opinion is yours to form. I am not alleging anything.

MSG

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Dr. Kamrin PHD
Institute for Environmental Toxicology
C-231 Holden Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mi. 48824

Sept. 9, 1992

Dear Dr. Kamrin,

Enclosed you will find all the information passed on to us by our neighbor, Carol Chase. The Hoff's and the Chase's were the families who initiated the contact with the producers of the screens, Phiper Wire Products and the distributor of the screens Weathervane.

As far as the background in these two complaints goes, as I understand it, the problem started for them about two years ago. When the weather became such that the windows needed to be closed an obnoxious strong odor became prevalent throughout the entire home. The Fire Department was called to the home of the Hoff's and determined that the odor was emitted from the screens, they advised the homeowners that the screens should be removed and the house aired-out. I believe that the Hoff's complaints were basically "Upper Respiratory Symptoms".

The Chase's complaint involved their small son's constant U.R.I.'s. Carol Chase who was pregnant at the time experienced frequent spontaneous vomiting. One of Carol's concerns is regarding her exposure during pregnancy and the possible side effects to her daughter that she carried during the exposure.

Carol became alarmed by the strong odor in her home and called the Oakland County Public Health Department. The Health Department determined the foul acidic odor from the rooms in direct sunlight was an extreme nuisance and may be a health danger. Since the odor seemed to smell electrical they had the electrical system in the home checked and found nothing. They later discovered that the odor was emitted from the screens and had them removed.

My family, the Golarz's, were effected by the debilitation of myself, Mary. For almost three (3) years every system in my body was effected. Admittedly, the condition of Chronic Fatigue Immune Deficiency Syndrome (CFIDS), is minor compared to the trauma of the deteriorated state the screen toxins apparently caused.

During our phone conversation, you mentioned consulting with a Doctor of Environmental Health on the staff of Michigan State University. If you need any additional information which would help in evaluating this situation, feel free to call us at 313-391-1675. My son Kurt is attending Michigan State as

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a Sophomore and can be called if you can not get in touch with us. He could forward any questions to us. His number is 517-336-9419.

If you can find any connection between my debilitated state and the toxins in the screens it would be extremely helpful to me in dealing with my future. If there are other products that contain these toxins, that would be detrimental to me, it would sure be nice to know what to look for. All or most of my problems dealt with the nervous system, I had problems speaking, thinking, writing, walking, organizing just to name a few.

Thank you for your help.

YOURS TRULY

MARY S. GOLARZ

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Joseph

- Joseph had constant Upper Respiratory Infections
- Spontaneous vomiting and regurgitation
- Now getting Allergy shots
- Flu like symptoms
- Has had a number of tests for Upper G.I problems

Kurt

- Constant Upper Respiratory Infections
- Now getting Allergy Shots
- Experienced bloody noses when home from college
- Always felt ill when home from college

Susan

- Constant Upper Respiratory Problems
- Now getting Allergy Shots
- Always felt ill when home from college
- Experienced decreased vision
- Burning of eyes

Keith

- Constant Upper Respiratory Infections
- Constant sore throats
- Now getting Allergy Shots
- Experienced decreased vision
- Flu like symptoms
- Psychological trauma
- Bloody noses
- Diagnosed in 1991 with Asthma

The entire family has been Psychologically effected by the debilitated state of their Wife and Mother.

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Please keep in mind that the negative effects our family experianced for two and one half to three years are still present in other homes wherever the screens are still in place.

The "History" as we understand it to date is that Phifer Wire Products, Inc. had to change the process used to coat their screens because employees were becoming ill. Although the company was aware of this problem, to date, we have never been notified of the recall of screens made in 1989. Also, the window company, "Weathervane" who distributed the known toxic screens to homes in our neighborhood in 1989, never notified us of the problem when they placed the screens in our homes.

Other families in our subdivision were also effected. We also understand that the "odor" which the screens emitted has been a complaint from various other parts of the United States.

When I spoke to Doctor Meeks, who was in charge of the screen assessment (at the request of Phifer Wire Products) at the University of Alabama Department of Environmental Health Sciences, He admitted to me per phone that he didn't have knowledge of the total possible toxic effects of the gases released from the screens.

Upon our arrival in Michigan in November of 1988 until the summer of 1989, I was basically healthy. I did need extra rest. I was also in need of a hysterectomy due to prolonged periods with clots.

My time was spent enjoying the challange of relocation with my family members who were all in good health. I spent much of my time organizing the decorating, landscaping ect. of our home.

The screens were placed in our home on May 5, 1989.

By August I began coughing and noticed that in the mornings my eyes felt like they were burning.

Although I had been on Theodur 150 mg. bid. for about 11 years along with a Bronchometer p.r.n. (since I had E. Coli Pneumonia), I continued to cough.

For two weeks straight, day and night, I had a non-productive cough with no relief. I developed respiratory stridor with difficulty breathing and was treated in the Emergency Room of Troy Beaumont. The Hysterectomy had to be postponed for a month. I was placed on cortizone therapy twice in a three month time frame.

All Family members were effected in different ways. The members effected were Joseph age 49, Kurt age 19, Susan age 19 and Keith age 8.

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One family was principally
active up there with
"Hippoglossus" plus several more
from "Hippoglossus" first breeding.
After was a company - flight.
While present, was seen in several
for 40 years. Not from TLV's + PEL's
Mile 5 includes M505 shot on
returning to the farm the season are
seen in. M505

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

MANUFACTURER: Phifer Wire Products, Inc.

ADDRESS: P. O. Box 1700

4400 Kauloosa Ave.

PHONE: Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

EMERGENCY NO. 205-345-2120

TELEX 261326 PHIF UR

MSDS NO. PWP-PGS-002

Date 08/28/89 REV. A

Prepared by Anthony Gambel

SECTION I. MATERIAL IDENTIFICATION

CHEMICAL NAME	PVC Coated Fiberglass Yarn	TRADE NAME	Phiferglass Yarn
AND SYNONYMS:	PVC Coated Fiberglass Insect Screening	AND SYNONYMS:	Phiferglass Insect Screening Phiferglass Sunscreen

CHEMICAL FAMILY Mixture

FORMULA $(C_2H_3Cl)_n$

SECTION II. INGREDIENTS AND HAZARDS

	%	Hazard Data		%	Hazard Data
TLV's and PEL's have not been established for this finished product. use is in final form as coated yarn and woven non-metallic screening.			Customer		

SECTION III. PHYSICAL DATA

Boiling point at 1 atm, deg F	NA	Specific gravity (H ₂ O = 1)	1.12
Vapor pressure at (mm Hg)	NA	Evap. Rate (_____ = 1)	NA
Vapor density (Air = 1)	NA	Volatiles, % by Volume	NA
Water solubility	None	Molecular weight	NA (mixture)

Appearance & Odor: Woven vinyl coated fabric, 8 to 10 colors. Odor of new vinyl.

SECTION IV. FIRE AND EXPLOSION DATA

	LOWER	UPPER
Flash Point and Method NA	Autoignition Temp. NA	Flammability Limits in Air NA

Extinguishing media: Water, foam, dry-chemical.

Special fire fighting procedures: For enclosed areas, use respirator or air mask

Unusual fire and explosion hazards: None known. Material will not burn in the absence of an independent flame source. Meets NFPA 101, Class A rating.

SECTION V. HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

TLV Not established

Effects of overexposure: Occasional skin irritation and upper respiratory tract irritation. Symptoms have been reported during manufacture of product but have not been detected and are not expected during end use of product. No toxicity is associated with irritation.

FIRST AID:

Eye contact: Flush eye with flowing water (eye fountain) for at least 15 minutes.

Skin contact: Frequent rinsing of skin surfaces with water to remove accumulated fibers will minimize irritation.

Inhalation: Vapors should not be hazardous.

Ingestion: Consult physician.

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02-101-8

TECHNICAL DATA

CODE: PMW0420

CUSTOMER CODE/PART: 02-101-8

NAME: HOMESHIELD WHITE POLYESTER F E

COLOR: WHITE

TYPE: POLYESTER

END
USEEXTERIOR: SCREEN FRAMES (SASH CLAD)
INTERIOR:

CONSTANTS: VISCOSITY: SEC NO. FORD CUP @ 80F
VISCOSITY: 22-27 SEC NO. 4 ZAHN CUP @ 80F
WT./GAL: 11.08 +/- .15
SOLIDS: 66.0 +/- 1.5 BY WT SOLIDS: 51.0 +/- 1.5 BY VOL
THEORETICAL COVERAGE: 1487-1259 SQ. FT. @ .55-.65 MIL DRY FIL

SUBSTRATE: TYPE: ALUMINUM PRIMED WITH: VGC0017 @ .05-.10 MILS
GAUGE: .019
CHEMICAL TREATMENT: PERMATREAT 1900

METHOD: REVERSE ROLLCOAT APPLIED VISCOSITY: AS REQUIRED
FILM THICKNESS: 1.1-1.3 MILS WET: .55-.65 MILS DRY

APPLICATION:

REDUCE: AS NECESSARY WITH: ISOPHORONE
CLEAN UP SOLVENTS: AROMATIC TYPES

LAB APPLICATION: 022 RB BAKE 24 SEC @ 660 F
PEAK METAL TEMP: 450-465 F. (THERMOLABELS)

PROPERTIES: GLOSS: 80 MIN @ 60 DEG. CONTAINS LUBRICANT: YES
PENCIL HARDNESS: F MIN MECH SOLVENT RUBS: 100 DR MEK
FABRICATION 1T NTP *No crack at 3 ft avg.* REVERSE IMPACT: 36 IN LBS NTP

REMARKS: % PB: < .06 % FLASH POINT: 135 F. HMIS
CALCULATED VOC = 3.76 *kg/sec* H-3 F-2 R-0 PP-X
TOTAL DRY FILM THICKNESS .7-.8 MILS
REVISED TO REFLECT VGC0017 PRIMER

NICHOLS HOMESHIELD INC
1725 ROCKINGHAM ROAD
DAVENPORT, IA
MR. JIM GOSSER

L. DEMERE
KANKAKEE-COIL
AUGUST 20, 1990
DLF

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

BAMBERGER POLYMERS, INC.
3003 New Hyde Park Road
New Hyde Park, New York

Page: 1

PRODUCT NAME: ENPOLENE

Product Code: 1000

1. INGREDIENTS:

Polyethylene homopolymer . CAS# 009002-88-4 100%

Substances listed in the Ingredients Section are those identified as being present at a concentration of 1% or greater, or 0.1% if the substance is on the list of potential carcinogens cited in OSHA Hazard Communication Standard. Where proprietary ingredient shows, the identity of this substance may be made available as provided in 29 CFR 1910.1200 (f).

2. PHYSICAL DATA:

BOILING POINT: Not applicable
VAP PRESS: Not applic.
VAP DENSITY: Not applic.
SOL. IN WATER: Nil
SP. GRAVITY: 0.91 - 0.97
APPEARANCE: Translucent white, solid pellets or granules.
ODOR: No odor.

3. FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA:

FLASH POINT: Not applic.
METHOD USED: Not applic.

FLAMMABLE LIMITS
LFL: Not applic.
UFL: Not applic.

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA: Water fog, foam, alcohol foam, CO2, dry chemical.

FIRE & EXPLOSION HAZARDS: Dense smoke emitted when burned without sufficient oxygen. Accumulation of fine dust

(Continued on Page 2)

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

BAMBERGER POLYMERS, INC.
3003 New Hyde Park Road
New Hyde Park, New York

Page: 2

PRODUCT NAME: BAPOLENE

Product Code: 1030

3. FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD DATA: (CONTINUED)

particles could pose an explosion hazard.

FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT: Wear positive pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus in any closed space.

4. REACTIVITY DATA:

STABILITY: (CONDITIONS TO AVOID) Temperatures over 572F, 300C will release combustible gases.

INCOMPATIBILITY: (SPECIFIC MATERIALS TO AVOID) None.

HAZARDOUS DECOMPOSITION PRODUCTS: Combustible gases when exposed to temperatures over 572F, 300C.

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION: Will not occur.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND DISPOSAL INFORMATION:

ACTION TO TAKE FOR SPILLS/LEAKS: Sweep up and discard.

DISPOSAL METHOD: Bury in landfill or burn in an adequate incinerator in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

6. HEALTH HAZARD DATA:

EYE: Solid or dust may cause irritation or corneal injury due to mechanical action.

SKIN CONTACT: Essentially nonirritating to skin. Mechanical injury only.

SKIN ABSORPTION: A single prolonged skin exposure is not likely to result in the material being absorbed through skin in harmful amounts.

(Continued on Page 3)

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

RAMBERGER POLYMERS, INC.
3003 New Hyde Park Road
New Hyde Park, New York

Page: 3

PRODUCT NAME: BAPOLENE

Product Code: 1030

6. HEALTH HAZARD DATA: (CONTINUED)

INGESTION: May cause choking if swallowed. Single dose oral toxicity is believed to be very low. Considered physiologically inert.

INHALATION: Vapors are unlikely due to physical properties. Single exposure to dust is not likely to be hazardous.

SYSTEMIC & OTHER EFFECTS: No relevant information found.

7. FIRST AID:

EYES: Irrigate immediately with water for at least 5 minutes. Mechanical irritation only.

SKIN: Wash off in flowing water or shower.

INGESTION: No adverse effects anticipated by this route of exposure incidental to proper industrial handling.

INHALATION: No adverse effects anticipated by this route of exposure incidental to proper industrial handling.

8. HANDLING PRECAUTIONS:

EXPOSURE GUIDELINE(S): None established.

VENTILATION: Good general ventilation should be sufficient.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION: No respiratory protection should be needed.

SKIN PROTECTION: No precautions other than clean body covering clothing should be needed.

EYE PROTECTION: Use safety glasses.

(Continued on Page 4)

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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

BAMBERGER POLYMERS, INC.
3003 New Hyde Park Road
New Hyde Park, New York

Page: 4

PRODUCT NAME: RAPOLENE

Product Code: 1030

9. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORAGE:
Practice reasonable care and caution in handling.

MSDS STATUS: Revised 1, 3, 5, and 6.

The Information Herein is Given in Good Faith. But No Warranty.
Expressed Or Implied, is Made.

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JOHN ENGLER, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3423 N. LOGAN/MARTIN L. KING JR., BLVD.
P.O. BOX 30195, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

Vernice Davis Anthony, Director

November 5, 1992

Mr. David Schmeltzer
Assistant Executive Director
Office of Compliance Enforcement
United States Consumer Products Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Attention: Ms. Judith Hayes

Dear Mr. Schmeltzer:

This follows my telephone conversation November 5, 1992 with Ms. Judith Hayes. We have received some health complaints from citizens who have used window screens manufactured by Phifer Wire Products, Inc., P.O. Box 1700, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403-1700. These window screens were distributed prior to June 1989 (between 1988-89) by the Weathervane Window Incorporated, 4th Court, Brighton, Michigan 48116. It is possible that some of the window screens of the alleged batch may have been sold nationwide.

It has been alleged that as a result of interaction with sun rays, these window screens change color and emit toxic compounds causing indoor air pollution. As a result, some citizens have complained of some adverse health effects (allergies and chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome [CFIDS]).

We would appreciate it if CPSC investigate this alleged problem and take suitable actions (report, advisory, etc.). We will gladly cooperate with the CPSC in obtaining materials and information from the concerned citizens. In response to your request, I have enclosed copies of reports of the preliminary chemical analyses of the material from the window screens. Also, enclosed is the address and telephone numbers of the concerned citizen, manufacturer and the distributor. I hope that CPSC will take up this project. Please contact me (517-335-8362) for additional information.

I sincerely look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kirpal S. Sidhu

Kirpal S. Sidhu, Ph.D.

Toxicologist

Division of Health Risk Assessment

FAX # (517) 335-9434

cc: John Hesse
Harold Humphrey
Mary Golarz ✓

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ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Manufacturer

Phifer Wire Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 1700
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403-1700
Telephone: 205-345-2120

Distributor

Weatherlane Window Incorporated
4th Court
Brighton, Michigan 48116
Telephone: 313-227-4900

Citizen(s)

Mrs. Mary Golarz
6710 Sun Valley Drive
Clarkston, Michigan 48348
Telephone: 313-391-1675

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January 15, 1992

Mr. Anthony Gamble
Phifer Wire Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 1700
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403-1700

Bob Hoff

3-pages

Dear Anthony:

Below is a discussion of the progress we have made in assessing the source of the odor associated with the polymer coated fiberglass screening material you recently sent to us.

In order to qualitatively describe odors believed to be originating from polymer coated fiberglass screen material our laboratory utilized approximately 30 square centimeter samples of various aged and non-weathered screen material cut into 1 cm square pieces as representations of the bulk material.

These samples were introduced into glass vials and sealed with teflon crimp cap seals. The glass vials were placed in a Hewlett-Packard model 19354 Headspace Analyzer which was interfaced to a Hewlett-Packard model 5890 Gas Chromatograph using a Hewlett-Packard model 5971 Mass Spectrometer as detector. The column in the gas chromatograph was a 25 meter HP5. The Headspace sampler was set to a total carrier flow of 90 ml/min, with auxiliary pressure set at 1.4 bar. The sample loop in the headspace analyzer had a 1 ml total volume. The split ratio on the gas chromatograph was 1:4, with a column head pressure of 4 psi. The gas chromatograph was operated isothermally at 120 degrees centigrade. The mass spectrometer scanned from 30 to 500 m/z.

Headspace optimization included sampling a mixed composite of aged and non-weathered samples of screen material at temperatures ranging from 50 degrees centigrade to 120 degrees centigrade. It was found that peak height of compounds originating from these samples increased with temperature until 110 degrees. At temperatures higher than this a broad non-specific peak appeared indicating possible degradation of the polymer material.

Analyses carried out on aged and non-weathered samples presented evidence that release of compounds from the samples increases with weathering. That is, weathered samples produced peak heights 10 -

The University of Alabama at Birmingham
309 Tidwell Hall • 720 South 20th Street • OAB Station
Birmingham, Alabama 35294-0008 • (205) 934-7032 • FAX (205) 975-6341

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200 times larger than non-weathered samples.

The peaks from the gas chromatograph of these materials exhibited very low retention times indicating low mass, low boiling point, and possibly polar materials. Also, the peak areas were too small to obtain reliable mass spectral identification. However, comparison of these mass spectra with NBS standards indicated the following compounds as tentatively identified:

<u>COMPOUND</u>	<u>CAS #</u>
Ethanone, 1-cyclobutyl-	3019288
3-octen-2-one, 7-methyl-	33046810
1-Buranol, 3-methyl-, acetate	123922
2H-Pyran, 3,4-dihydro-6-methyl	16015115
[2,2'-Bifuran]-5,5'-dicarboxylic acid, 4	5905033
Propanamide, 2-methyl-	563837
1,2-Benzenedicarboxylic acids:	
diisooctyl	27554263
1-nitro	603112
diundecyl	3648202
diisododecyl	26761400
dihexyl	3648213
Aspidofractinine-3-methanol, (2.alpha.)	2656442

These compounds appear to be oxidation products of monomer material coated onto the fiberglass screen, various phthalates associated with plasticizers used in the manufacture of the polymer, and pigment used in coloring the screen material.

It cannot be overstressed that these are only tentative identifications. In order to further define these materials, a larger sample loop has been installed on the headspace analyzer, and a more polar column has been installed in the gas chromatograph. This should allow us to introduce more of the sample into the gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer, and allow for better separation of these oxidation products. Work is continuing on screen materials and on hand tool materials associated with screen installation.

We are in the process of re-analyzing these samples utilizing the modifications described above. We should have the results these analyses by the end of this week or the first part of next week. I will forward the results as soon as possible.

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If you would like me to discuss the possible health effects of these compounds with any of your customers, please let me know and I will be more than happy to do so.

Sincerely yours,



Robert G. Meeks

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analy used very small sample base color
need larger sample - and used

U.S.
Environmental

7 different compounds - released.
used computer (toxicology file
reference -) of 7 found - not a lot
of information on key toxic toxins
on health effects -

Product

- Toxic Substances
Control Act -



break down products
from UV rays (heat)
and polymers - when
break down - release chem
that weren't there to begin
with -

2 xylene products animals testing -
irritant in respiratory tract.

remote possibility - smoke residual after leaving
(toxin) react
433



JOHN ENGLER, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3423 N. LOGAN/MARTIN L. KING JR., BLVD.
P.O. BOX 30195, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909

Vernice Davis Anthony, Director

November 5, 1992

Mr. David Schmeltzer
Assistant Executive Director
Office of Compliance Enforcement
United States Consumer Products Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

Attention: Ms. Judith Hayes

Dear Mr. Schmeltzer:

This follows my telephone conversation November 5, 1992 with Ms. Judith Hayes. We have received some health complaints from citizens who have used window screens manufactured by Phifer Wire Products, Inc., P.O. Box 1700, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403-1700. These window screens were distributed prior to June 1989 (between 1988-89) by the Weathervane Window Incorporated, 4th Court, Brighton, Michigan 48116. It is possible that some of the window screens of the alleged batch may have been sold nationwide.

It has been alleged that as a result of interaction with sun rays, these window screens change color and emit toxic compounds causing indoor air pollution. As a result, some citizens have complained of some adverse health effects (allergies and chronic fatigue immune deficiency syndrome [CFIDS]).

We would appreciate it if CPSC investigate this alleged problem and take suitable actions (report, advisory, etc.). We will gladly cooperate with the CPSC in obtaining materials and information from the concerned citizens. In response to your request, I have enclosed copies of reports of the preliminary chemical analyses of the material from the window screens. Also, enclosed is the address and telephone numbers of the concerned citizen, manufacturer and the distributor. I hope that CPSC will take up this project. Please contact me (517-335-8362) for additional information.

I sincerely look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Kirpal S. Sidhu

Kirpal S. Sidhu, Ph.D.

Toxicologist

Division of Health Risk Assessment

FAX # (517) 335-9434

cc: John Hesse
Harold Humphrey
Mary Golarz ✓

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ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Manufacturer

Phifer Wire Products, Inc.
P.O. Box 1700
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403-1700
Telephone: 205-345-2120

Distributor

Weathervane Window Incorporated
4th Court
Brighton, Michigan 48116
Telephone: 313-227-4900

Citizen(s)

Mrs. Mary Golarz
6710 Sun Valley Drive
Clarkston, Michigan 48348
Telephone: 313-391-1675

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